



**File Code:** 5100

**Date:** December 29, 2004

**Subject:** S-590 Advanced Fire Behavior

**To:** S-590 Nominee

Congratulations! You have been nominated and are beginning the process to attend the S-590 Advanced Fire Behavior Interpretation to be presented at the National Fire Institute March of 2006. We have moved into our new facility, which is next to the Tucson International airport. Our new address and phone numbers are:

**Place:** NAFRI (National Fire Institute)

**Main Phone:** (520) 799-8787

**Address:** 3265 E. Universal Way, Tucson, AZ 85706

**Fax:** (520) 799-8785

The National Fire Institute has experienced increased success by involving our students in a mentoring program prior to their attendance at the national level courses. For S-590 you were nominated one year early and have been enrolled in the mentoring program. The S-590 mentoring program includes two parts: the first part is time devoted to reinforce and practice your processing skills – BehavePlus, FARSITE, RERAP as determined by your target position. The second part provides the student an opportunity to take incident assignments as a technical specialist to gain insight into the FBAN and LTAN roles.

This winter there will not be formal pre-course work. In lieu of the formal pre-course work, the following bullets are tasks to consider in preparation prior to the course.

- If you do not meet the required course prerequisites, you will need to take this winter and next fire season to ensure you have met the prerequisites. There is an attachment to this letter that will address your specific prerequisite needs, if necessary.
- You should review the BehavePlus program.
  - BehavePlus is used for the S-590 course and for the S-590 Pre-course Test that is taken in the Fall of 2005. The pre-course test is proctored.
  - Take the on-line training available for BehavePlus at the fire.org web site.  
<http://www.fire.org/>
  - Assist as an instructor and/or coach at an S-390 or S-490 course, if available. The Geographic Area Training Representatives (GATRs) are aware of your impending interest to help.
- If you are targeting LTAN, you should review the FARSITE and RERAP software.
  - Review your FARSITE and RERAP course material and user guide.
  - FARSITE offers an online tutorial in the online help. <http://www.fire.org/>
  - Assist as an instructor and/or coach at an S-492 and/or S-493 course. Contact Don Washco at the BLM National Training Center in Phoenix, AZ, 602-906-5535.
- S-590 focuses on analyzing, interpreting, displaying and communicating fire behavior information. To enhance your presentation skills, we suggest:
  - Attend Facilitative Instructor, M-410.
  - Take the opportunity to engage in public speaking opportunities.
  - Instruct at any course, such as a local NWCG fire suppression course



- Ensure you are ready for assignments as a Technical Specialist during the 2005 season. These assignments can be on complex Incidents, Wildland Fire Use and/or Long-Term Risk Assessments. The ordering process for the Technical Specialist is being finalized by the S-590 Steering Committee. Further details will be mailed to you early this Spring.
- Fall of 2005, you will be required to successfully complete a proctored pre-course test. With successful completion of the pre-course test and acceptance into the S-590 course, you will be assigned formal pre-course work to be completed during the winter of 2005-2006.

I have attached the S-590 Candidate Mentor Process that was sent to the Geographic Area Coordinating Group on July 13, 2004. If you have any questions, please call Cyndie Hogg. You can contact her at the NAFRI office by phone 520-799-8753, fax 520-799-8785, or by email [chogg@fs.fed.us](mailto:chogg@fs.fed.us).

RICH WANDS  
Director



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

National Advanced  
Fire and Resource  
Institute

3265 E. Universal Way  
Tucson, AZ 85706

File Code: 5100  
Route To:

Date: July 13, 2004

Subject: S-590 Advanced Fire Behavior Interpretation

To: Chair, Geographic Area Coordinating Group

The National Advanced Fire and Resource Institute (NAFRI/NARTC) has experienced increased success with S-520/S-620 students involved in a mentoring program prior to their attendance at these national level courses. In order to further capitalize on this success, the S-590 Advanced Fire Behavior Interpretation Steering Committee has adopted a similar process for the 2006 S-590 course.

The S-590 Steering Committee has requested NAFRI begin this process by requesting potential 2006 S-590 candidates one year early (November 1, 2004) and these candidates be enrolled in mentoring programs as provided within each geographic area.

By establishing a mentoring program two years in advance of the course, the S-590 candidates will have increased opportunities to gain experience, training and exposure to complex Incidents and Long-Term Assessments. The candidates would also have ample time to preview any related course material and decide if attendance at the course is their desire. The mentoring program would also enable the geographic areas to assess the readiness of the candidates to attend the course.

As per the attached flow process, we are requesting that each Geographic Area Coordinating Group with the assistance of their Training Representative (GATR) submit the nomination of potential S-590 candidates for the 2006 Course by November 1, 2004. We are also requesting that the identified candidates be placed in a mentoring program in each geographic area. Please submit the nominations following the established nomination process to Cyndie Hogg, S-590 Course Coordinator. Cyndie can be reached at NAFRI by phone 520-799-8753 or email [chogg@fs.fed.us](mailto:chogg@fs.fed.us).

/s/ *Rich Wands*

RICH WANDS  
NAFRI Director

Enclosure



## **S-590 CANDIDATE MENTOR PROCESS**

In order to assure an adequate supply of highly qualified FBAN and LTAN candidates for future incident management and fire use teams, the following steps are deemed necessary:

- Geographic Area Coordinating Groups (GACG) take a nationally consistent and active role in the identification, prioritization and nomination of prospective candidates. Use of their GA training working teams and GA Training Representatives are recommended.
- Current Type 1, Type 2 and Fire Use Fire Behavior Analysts (FBAN) and Long-Term Analysts (LTAN) take an active role in the mentoring of identified candidates.
- “Mentoring” should provide candidates with meaningful experiences as a Fire Behavior/Fire Assessment Technical Specialist and be provided by committed and qualified FBAN and LTAN individuals.

The National Advanced Fire and Resource Institute (NAFRI), GACGs, FBANs and LTANs are responsible for the following:

<b>TASK</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>WHEN</b>
1. Identify interested candidates with potential to successfully complete S-590.	GACG	Ongoing
2. Issue call letter for potential candidates to GACGs.	NAFRI	July 2004
3. Provide NAFRI with prioritized nominations by targeted positions.	GACG	November 2004
4. Pre-selection and notification of candidates with a cc to GACG's.	NAFRI	December 2004
5. Initiate Pre-course work and notify GACG's and candidates.	NAFRI	January 2005
6. Facilitate mentoring process by assigning candidates to appropriate Type 1, Type 2 and Fire Use FBANs and LTANs.	GACG	March 2005
7. Provide meaningful assignments and mentoring to candidates including periodic assessments.	FBAN/LTAN	Fire Season 2005
8. Reconfirm prioritization of final candidates by position.	GACG	November 2005
9. Send Pre-Course Test and notify GACG's and candidates.	NAFRI	November 2005
10. Final selection of candidates to attend S-590 course.	NAFRI	January 2006
11. Send Pre-Course Work and notify GACG's and candidates.	NAFRI	January 2006
12. Host pre-course meeting with FBANs, LTANs, students, and GATR's.	GACG	January 2006
13. Conduct S-590 course.	NAFRI	March 2006